

**County of Los Angeles – Department of Mental Health**  
**OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

Thursday, July 22, 2010

~ **Approved Minutes** ~

**Please note the minutes are a brief summary and not a word for word transcription of events at this meeting.**

**Larry Gasco Chairman, Presiding**

**I. Call to Order – Larry Gasco**

- The meeting was called to order by Larry Gasco
- Roll Call – Canetana Hurd  
Attendance recorded as follows:  
Absent Excused: Greg Thompson, and Phillip Chen
- Approval of Minutes – Larry Gasco  
**ACTION TAKEN** – June 24, 2010 minutes was unanimously approved by the Commission with corrections. Motion-Rabens/Second-Askins

**II. Chairman's Report – Larry Gasco**

- Mr. Gasco stated he is excited about being the new chair and talked about his early days at DMH as a psychiatric social worker. He was impressed with the group of Commissioners and hoped to one day become a member. Mr. Gasco expressed appreciation for the leadership of former Chair, Jerry Lubin. Mr. Gasco admired Mr. Lubin's example of responsibility by rearranging his schedule to attend more DMH meeting giving the Commission more visibility. Mr. Gasco also thanked the DMH Executive Management Team for support and leadership.
- Mr. Gasco announced Nathaniel Ayers will be traveling to Washington DC to meet President Obama for the ADA (America Disability Act) 20<sup>th</sup> year celebration on July 28. Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas took the lead to recognize Mr. Ayers at a board meeting. Mr. Gasco attended the board meeting; he stated the highlight of the presentation was watching Mr. Ayers play his violin for the audience.
- August Dark - Mr. Gasco announced for the month of August the full commission meeting will be Dark. Next meeting will be held at the Latino Behavioral Health Institute Conference Thursday, September 23, 2010 at the Universal City Hilton.

**Executive Committee Meeting Update** – Mr. Gasco reported on items discussed at the Executive Committee meeting held July 8, 2010. He asked if another executive board member would take lead to report at future full meetings. Mr. Gasco discussed the following items:

- MHC/SAAC Chairs – Larry Gasco will continue regular monthly meetings with the SAAC Chairs. The meetings are productive and it is important to continue communication with SAACs because of MHSA and the innovative things happening in mental health.
- NEO (New Employee Orientation) – Commission will continue presentations at the department's new employee orientations. Mr. Gasco asks that other Commissioners volunteer to speak at future orientations on a rotational basis. Delores Huffman volunteered to talk at the next orientation.
- DMH Weekly Newsletter – Mr. Gasco met with Kathleen Piche, DMH Public Information Officer and editor of the DMH Weekly eNEWS to foster a communication with staff that provide direct services via the newsletter. It was recommended the Commission submit occasional or regular articles to the eNEWS.
- Mr. Gasco attended a state sponsored commission conference and found out many other counties address public comments at the beginning of their meeting. Mr. Gasco proposed this change to the executive board. It was decided not to change the public comment spot because most comments pertain to information reported during the presentation or the departmental report. Mr. Gasco stated he will continue to work on slenderizing the agenda so that enough time is allowed for the public to address the Commission.
- Executive Committee Presentations/Format – Mr. Gasco stated the quality of presentations given at the Executive Committee is worthy to be heard by the full Commission. The group decided to change the meeting format to focus more on logistics matters and reschedule the remaining 2010 presentations for the full meeting.
- Quarterly CALMHBC Meetings – Mr. Gasco will continue attending the quarterly CALMHBC (California Local Mental Health Boards and Commissions) meetings. It is hoped that Commissioner McNeill will also continue to attend meetings because his role is vital to the CALMHBC's newly elected leadership.

### **III. DMH Report – Dr. Robin Kay, Chief Deputy Director**

**Health Care Reform** – The department began preparation for health care reform by hosting a series of educational meetings for managers to understand details of the reform and organized a stakeholder process countywide among the various populations. The main purpose of the preparation is to work with the State on the 1115 Waiver. The State submitted a draft proposal for the 1115 Waiver to the federal government. The government replied with questions regarding mental health integration. DMH will be reviewing what primary services are critical to integration with Department of Public Health (DPH) and Department of Health Services

(DHS). Each department is individually addressing the health care reform components for compliance and at some point the departments will need to develop common fundamental concepts to use together. DMH is in a good position to begin an integration process. It has current data and models in place because of its work on the MHSA plans. Integration plans are somewhat ready and targeted for new projects and transformation.

**Budget** – Dr. Kay reported the department is still in a holding pattern waiting to hear from FMAT and the state budget. The FMAT (Family Medicine Accelerated Track) federal match increased to \$.62 on the dollar that resulted in a savings to local counties. The FMAT increase helped the department mitigate the budget gap. However, the FMAT increase will expire. The department anticipates the budget will not close in the black partially due to FMAT and unmet goals set for transformation services. Many providers pulled out of the transformation RFP process.

**Legislative Report** - Susan Rajlal, Legislative Analyst reported behind the scenes legislation continues to look at proposals to close state budget gaps. Ms. Rajlal also reported there are no assaults on mental health funding this month.

**STATS - Robin Kay, PhD, Chief Deputy Director  
Paul Arns, PhD, Psychologist and DMH Statistician**

STATS (Strategies for Total Accountability & Total Successes) process was developed to change the culture of the department and spotlight the impact on the service delivery for accountability and accuracy. STATS performance indicators glean three components:

- Direct service percentages – portion of non supervisory staff time spent in claimable activity relate to paid regular and overtime work hours, the target is 65%
- Claim submission lag time – number of days from delivery of client service to submission of claim, the target is greater than 70% within 14 days
- Client benefits percentage – open active clients at provider sites sorted into categories based on claim funding source. Monitors attention to benefits establishment activity.

Dr. Kay stated using accurate and timely data and statistical integrity to manage performance of programs and staff DMH will gain very good accurate knowledge of the of service delivery outcomes. The STATS program involves the directly operated programs exclusively because the data was readily available. Its core beliefs are everyone has to share data and be able to examine and understand the data, managers and supervisors receive training and technical assistance, continued follow up and assessment, and adopt a departmental culture to have an ongoing problem solving mechanism and hold everyone accountable.

Dr. Paul Arns explained the main intent is not to add additional paperwork to the process. Training staff and meeting monthly in one place helps clarify expectations, improves information dissemination, and identifies issues and resolution.

#### IV. **Special Presentation – Mental Health Court Linkage Programs**

Alisa Dunn, LCSW, Program Head

Priscilla Moore, MS, RN, Community Reintegration

Pamela Van Summern, LCSW, Court Liaison Staff Supervisor

Ms. Dunn made introductions to the Commission. She spoke on the background of the mental health court beginnings at the jail. The program began with a 3-year grant, 3 courts, and 5 staff. There are currently fifteen clinicians co-located in twenty-seven courts solving problems in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Superior Court. The presentation mainly focused on 3 linkage programs, a new program, and its purpose:

##### Court Liaison Program Services

- Outreach to defendants on-site at the courthouse
- Individual service needs assessment
- Bridging the gap between the court and jail services
- Referrals come from the Public Defender
- Work with misdemeanors and felons
- Collaborates with clients, probation, and families
- Advocate building trust in court room with clients
- Resource at impact meetings
- Expand to Norwalk and Downey with MHSA funding allocation
- Educate individuals in the legal system

##### Community Reintegration

- Opportunity to receive treatment as alternative to jail
- Rehabilitation provided for transition into community
- Clients stay 6-12 months ordered by the judge
- Volunteer program, has longer stay than jail sentence
- Individuals are usually motivated
- 86% clients are felons
- 9% clients have misdemeanors

##### 1370.01 Penal Code Program

- Misdemeanor defendants found incompetent to stand trial
- Linkage Dept 95 to DMH for treatment and restoration of competency; all cases in Dept 95 are assessed

##### Co-Occurring Disorders Court Program (new program)

- Designed to rehabilitate criminal defendants with both mental illness and substance disorders
- Began as pilot in 2007
- Funding comes from homeless prevention initiative
- Housed in Criminal Courts Building Downtown Los Angeles

- Volunteer program, 18-30 month court supervised treatment
- Employment grants available for clients to work

Ms. Dunn reported the program sees about 2000 clients yearly. She thanked the Commission for honoring the court program for Most Innovative Program at the 2001 annual awards event.

## V. Commissioners' Reports

**Jerry Lubin** – Mr. Lubin attended two hearings to support the work of Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Center in an appeal made by the opponent to construct a facility for additional beds. The appeal against the action granting the appeal was denied unanimously by the City of Los Angeles because of zoning issues.

Mr. Lubin presented a gavel to the new chair on behalf of the Commission. He stated one of the things he remembers as former chair was tapping a glass to get the attention of the audience.

**George Caballero** – Mr. Caballero is close to finalizing a draft of the older adults report with input from various members of Commission. He will also complete the motion discussed at last month's meeting.

**Carlos Sosa** – Mr. Sosa reported the WET committee has not met since April 2010. The program has a \$60 million budget. Mr. Sosa stated at the last meeting priorities were identified pertaining to the budget and he is concerned that money does not sit unaccounted for.

**Frank Baron** – Mr. Baron stated he taught a 10-week course for the NAMI Peer-to-Peer program. It was an enjoyable experience. Mr. Baron also introduced a special guest in the audience, Ms. Annette Tarsky; a good friend and mentor from NAMI.

**Barry Perrou** – Dr. Perrou reported on the 5150 transport study meeting he attended last month. The group created work groups to explore pre-hospital care and transporting 5150 detainees. The following work groups were created:

- Statutory/Legal – review current 5150 statutes, relevant case law and opinions, and outline statutory changes that would be requested to implement an alternative transport system
- Options/Alternatives – review current transport options and develop detailed recommendations for alternative transport options of Section 5150 detainees, if needed
- Finance/Resources - estimate cost of the current transport system and, based on the proposal of the Alternatives work group, costs associated with implementing an alternative transport system
- Field Assessment and Training – discuss training and best practices in field assessment for law enforcement personnel to potentially

decrease the number of individuals detained and transported under Section 5150

- Psychiatric Bed Capacity and Tracking – review efforts to track psychiatric bed capacity countywide and options for a system that could inform responsible agencies of available beds

**Victoria Sofro** – Ms. Sofro thanked DMH for allocating funds to train housing and employment analyst personnel.

**Delores Huffman** – Ms. Huffman discussed a concern raised at the Executive Committee regarding clients that participate in the CCAF program (Client Coalition Activity Fund). CCAF has been inactive since January 2010. The program is used to pay clients to attend meetings helping them with transportation cost, skill development, and knowledge transfer when collaborating with the various client groups. Ms. Huffman was informed by Dr. Kay the delay in processing the claims is because the office is being restructured. The problem will be cleared up soon. Ms. Huffman spoke to the clients to be patient with the office reorganization and continue to come to Commission meetings.

Ms. Huffman reported Dr. Southard and Dr. Shaner attended the Bebe Moore Campbell annual celebration at the National African-American Museum sponsored by the Urban LA NAMI branch. Dr. Southard was the guest speaker. Ms. Moore was an advocate for NAMI, brain cancer, and a writer of many children's books on the stigma of mental illness. Los Angeles City Councilman Bernard Parks presented the Urban LA NAMI branch with a \$75,000 grant at the event.

Ms. Huffman submitted the following housing report for July 2010:

#### **MHSA Housing Program**

Twenty-nine projects are actively participating in the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Housing Program at various stages of development. The status of each project as of July 16, 2010 is shown below:

#### **Developing Service Plan for Public Posting and Comment Period**

- Avalon II Family Apartments

#### **Preparing Technical Submission**

- Swarthy World Society Apartments

#### **Technical Submission under Review**

- VOALA Navy Village for Families
- David & Margaret Home, Inc. – Hope Apartments
- New Genesis Apartments

**Invitation to Submit Full Application**

- Parker Hotel
- Bobbie Owens Family Living Community

**Application Submitted to the State Pending Approval**

- Figueroa Apartments
- Step Up on Vine (Galaxy Hotel)
- Parkview on the Park Apartments

**Approved for Funding by the State**

- Glenoaks Gardens
- Nehemiah Court Apartments
- Progress Place I and II
- Caroline Severance Manor
- Epworth Apartments
- Osborne Place Apartments
- Horizon Apartments
- 28<sup>th</sup> St. YMCA Residences
- Menlo Family Housing
- PWC Family Housing
- NoHo Senior Villas
- KIWA Apartments
- Willis Avenue Apartments

**Approved for Funding and Initiated Construction**

- Young Burlington
- Courtyards in Long Beach
- Ford Apartments
- Villas at Gower

**Open for Occupancy**

- Daniel's Village
- Charles Cobb Apartments

**Housing Trust Fund Program**

Of the 12 Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Program awardees, eight housing projects are in operation. Through the HTF Program, supportive services are being provided to approximately 200 tenants residing in permanent supportive housing. The provision of services assists formerly homeless tenants maintain their housing and pursue their recovery goals. Originally scheduled to open March 2010, the Bonnie Brae Apartments' opening has been delayed due to issues related to the project-based subsidies awarded through the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Construction has begun for Project Home, the Downtown Women's Center housing project. Project Home is scheduled to open in December 2010. The remaining projects, Glenoaks Gardens Apartments and Mini Twelve Step are slated to open in winter 2011.

After completing a Request for Information (RFI) process, the Department entered into competitive negotiations with six respondents to allocate the remaining HTF Program funding. The RFI targeted eligible projects in Supervisorial Districts 4 and 5 only. The Department expects to execute service agreements with the six respondents over the next several weeks.

### **Ongoing & Upcoming Activities**

#### **Housing Assistance Program**

The Department provides financial resources for clients moving into housing from homelessness by paying the security deposit and purchasing the basic essentials to furnish their apartment. In addition, financial resources are available to pay one month's rent in arrears to prevent eviction and ongoing rental assistance for qualified clients. The funding sources for the Housing Assistance Program include Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness and MHSA. During the period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, the Department assisted the following numbers of clients with securing permanent housing:

- 230 clients and/or their families with the security deposit at the time of move-in;
- 231 clients and/or their families with purchasing household goods;
- 22 clients with eviction prevention; and
- 59 clients with ongoing rental assistance.

#### **VI. Community and SAAC Reports - None**

**SAAC 2** – Roberta Burkenheim submitted the following report via fax:

Service Area 2 meeting for the month of July met on the second Thursday of the month, July 8, 2010.

Present at the meeting was adult and children service providers from outpatient services, schools, hospitals, correctional release services, consumers and families of consumers.

Presiding over the meeting Eva Carrera, District Chief; conducting the meeting Dorothy Ross, Chair; and Support Person, James Randall, Outreach Coordinator. Discussion included still trying to figure out how to implement delivery of prevention and early intervention for children and TAY to schools, clinics, and the community. Also discussed was Service Area II LA County Department of Mental Health 50<sup>th</sup> year celebration on October 15, 2010, from 11 am at the Santa Clarita Mental Health Clinic. There will be art exhibits; in attendance Dr. Marvin Southard, County Board of Supervisors Zev Yaroslavsky and Michael Antonovich. Scrolls and honors will be presented to program supporters of mental health and consumers.



The meeting presentation was the dvd, Profiles of Hope, followed by discussion. The next meeting will be September 9, 2010. We will be dark in August.

**SAAC 6 – Dorothy Banks**

Ms. Banks reported SAAC 6 met on Thursday, July 15. Two speakers presented at the meeting.

- Dr. Karen Gunn, representing AAA UREP (African-born African American unrepresented population) reported on the details of a survey taken to address the needs of this population
- Lia Sales and Diane Burton discussed their Back to Basics program. The program identified a need to improve reading and writing skills of youth ages 13 and above. The program meets every Saturday and provides a literacy professor to work with all youth who will come.

Ms. Banks also reported the SAAC is taking applications for membership.

**VII. Public Comments –**

- **Mark Karmatz**– Announced several upcoming client conferences and meetings including the Alternatives Conference September 29 – October 3, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency in Garden Grove, California 92840.

**VIII. Meeting Adjourned**

**IX. PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING LOCATION @ LBHI CONFERENCE**

**Thursday, September 23, 2010  
Noon – 2:30 pm  
Hilton Hotel Los Angeles Universal City  
555 Universal Hollywood Drive  
Universal City, CA 91608**

Please contact the Commission office at (213) 738 4772 if you need more information

Submitted by Canetana Hurd